

GO GREEN! NEWSLETTER

City of Lansing Earth Day

Mayor Bernero's Office will be celebrating Earth Day on April 22nd in the lobby of City Hall. Area elementary schools are invited to participate in the festivities, which include entertaining games, crafts, refreshments and educational exhibits. Hundreds of local children will learn the importance of environmental stewardship, while also having fun celebrating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day! If you are interested in volunteering, or registering a student group please contact the Go Green! Office at 517-483-4597.

April 2010



Enjoy an Eco-Friendly Vacation



Green Spring Break

Students at MSU skipped out on the typical voyages to Cancun and Panama City this year and used their time off to advance eco-friendly projects across the globe. Students who ventured to El Yunque, Puerto Rico worked to clear trails and assist El Yunque Rain Forest parks employees with various preservation projects. Other students didn't venture quite so far, as one alternative spring break group headed to Murphy, North Carolina to restore and push for environmental protection of the Hiwassee River watershed. To learn about more programs or see how you or someone you know can participate in an MSU Alternative Spring Break, check out <http://asb.msu.edu/>

1. Avoid disposable travel containers. Many stores now sell really cute and affordable refillable sets for your shampoo and soap.
2. Use a refillable water bottle! Just remember to fill it each time you stop to cut down on plastic use and waste.
3. Create an online itinerary with the directions and details of your trip that you can view on your phone or computer – avoid printing out a hard copy.
4. When choosing your destination, consult the Green Hotels Association website (<http://greenhotels.com>) for environmentally responsible lodging.
5. Consider taking the train instead of flying to save on fossil fuels!
6. Remember to turn off your appliances, turn down your thermostat, and unplug your electronics before you leave for your vacation!
7. Take part in activities such as camping, hiking, cycling, sailing, or cross-country skiing instead of fossil fuel powered excursions.



Green Hero Award

The Greater Lansing Go Green! Initiative is partnering with the local community to honor a “Green Hero” from Greater Lansing this Earth Day. We are looking for an individual who has gone above and beyond to do things such as recycle, conserve energy, use alternative transportation, reduce waste, protect our natural resources, and teach others about the importance of keeping our community clean and green. Please nominate your friends, neighbors, teachers, co-workers, family members, yourself or anyone else who you feel fits this description. The winner of the “Green Hero” award will be presented with a specially designed plaque constructed of recycled plastic and metal along with a gift basket of environmentally friendly goods and services from area businesses. An award ceremony honoring Lansing’s Green Hero will take place on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22nd at 6pm. Nomination forms are due by 5pm Tuesday, April 20th. They are available on our website: GoGreenGoLansing.com



The Garden Project

The Garden Project provides services for anyone interested in planting a garden in their own backyard or as part of a community garden project. The Garden Project offers skilled and beginning gardeners tips and tools for healthy plants as well as home garden assistance, workshops and classes focused on food preparation and preservation. A guide is available at: <http://www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org/images/pdf/garden%20notes%20march%202010.pdf>



Plant a Rain Garden

A rain garden is a strategic landscaping feature that is designed to capture storm water runoff from driveways, walkways, and even the roof of your house. It typically features native plants and is designed to store rainwater and other essential nutrients. On the outside, a rain garden looks just like any other attractive landscaping, but it can also significantly reduce the amount of water flowing into storm drains, erosion, water pollution, and flooding! Interested in making your own rain garden? Check out <http://raingardens.org/Index.php> to learn more!